

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Trazwell and Pollock. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to clarify that the contact member which extends substantially radially from the main body of the ground contact of the claimed apparatus is not merely resilient, but elastically deformable. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, at page 2, line 10 and page 5, line 11 of the specification. The elastic deformability of the claimed contact member is critical for the present invention. The operation of the present invention is described, for example, at page 4, lines 8-12 as follows:

As planar surface 13 is moved further toward signal contact 11, such that signal contact 11 makes contact with signal surface 15, resilient contact members 30 deflect backward to allow such contact between signal contact 11 and signal surface 15, while at the same time maintaining contact between tip 32 and ground surface 14.

Resilient contact members 30 deflect backward because of their elastic deformability. As a result, main body 40 is permitted to move even closer to planar surface 13 and the space, or "air gap," between resilient contact members 30 and planar surface 13 is decreased. Minimizing this air gap enables operation of the present invention at high frequency use (greater than 12 GHz).

In addition, the elastic deformability of the resilient contact members defined in the present invention provides for a "wiping" action of the tips 32 of the resilient contact members against the ground surface 14. Specifically, as described in the present specification at page 5, line 10-14:

In addition, the flexible, elastically de-formable, fixed or field replaceable and detachable, ground contact(s) provide a resilient and continuous wiping action. This wiping action removes oxides or material from the surface of the conductive elements of the planar device ground plane.

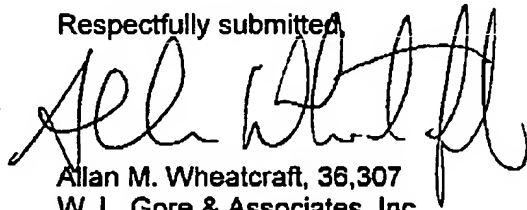
By contrast, the arm 62 of Pollock depicted in Figures 1-5 is not elastically deformable. At best, it is "resilient" in that it retracts via spring 66. In addition, the

arm does not extend substantially horizontally out from the main body.

Accordingly, the air gap cannot be minimized and controlled as with the present invention. Similarly, there is a mention of elastic deformability of arms 194, 195 (Figures 11-13) of Trazwell, and arms 194, 195 also do not extend substantially horizontally.

Thus, neither of the cited references provides for construction having the features claimed in the present application, nor would one skilled in the art be motivated to derive such features from the cited references. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan M. Wheatcraft', is written over the typed name and address.

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